

COLONEL FREDERICK W. JOHNSTON, III

US Army, Retired



In 1963, Fredrick W. Johnston was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. He was sent to Fort Bragg where he served with the 1/320th Artillery, 82nd Airborne Division as Forward Observer, Fire Direction Officer and Executive Officer consecutively from 1963 to 1965. Additionally, COL Johnston saw duty as Assistant G4 Plans Officer and served in the Dominican Republic on the Division Staff. In 1966, he was transferred to Military Intelligence (MI) and attended the Imagery Interpretation Course at Fort Holabird.

Following transfer and initial branch schooling in 1966, COL Johnston was assigned to the 525th MI Group, Republic of Vietnam, where he served as a III Corps Tactical Zone II Team Chief, Combined Intelligence Center Vietnam (CICV). Upon return from overseas in 1967, he was assigned to the Foreign Disclosure Branch, Defense Intelligence

Agency (DIA), prior to being selected for the DIA Pentagon Briefing Team, Special Activities Office in 1968. In 1970, COL Johnston attended the nine-month Defense Intelligence School Analysts Course in lieu of the Intelligence Officers Advanced Course, prior to being reassigned to the Republic of Vietnam in 1971. During this second tour, COL Johnston served as G2 Advisor to the Capitol Military District and Military Governor of Saigon.

Upon his return to the Continental US in 1972, COL Johnston was assigned to the 101st Airborne Assault Division until 1975. Duties included, in turn, command of the 101st MI Company, Deputy G2 and G2 Operations Officer on the Division Staff, and S2 of 1st Brigade. After leaving Fort Campbell, he attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth through 1976. Following graduation, he was then assigned to duties in the United Kingdom as American Exchange Officer to the Joint Reconnaissance Intelligence Center in the position of Team Chief, Missiles and Space Team and Special Projects Officer. In 1978, COL Johnston was selected to attend the Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, California, where he received a MS Degree in Systems Technology in 1980. His subsequent assignment, until reassignment as Commander of the 319th MI Battalion, was with the Combined Arms Combat Development Activity, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. As Chief, Intelligence and Electronic

Warfare Division, C3I (Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence) Directorate, COL Johnston was responsible for developing advanced Military Intelligence systems and concepts. Here, he established the first Army Command, Control, Communication, Countermeasures (C3CM) Office and published the initial TRADOC pamphlet on C3CM. Upon completion of his battalion command, he assumed the responsibilities as the TRADOC System Manager for the All Source Analysis System. In 1987, he was selected to command the 703rd MI Brigade at Field Station Kunia, Hawaii.

From 1989 to 1993, COL Johnston served as the Director of Combat Developments, US Army Intelligence Center. In this capacity, he designed and obtained approval of the current Military Intelligence Concept. This concept resulted in the design of the Tactical Intelligence force structure fielded throughout the late 1990s and into the 21st Century. His contributions were at the very cutting edge of Military Intelligence operations.

At the time of his retirement in 1993, COL Johnston was regarded as being the Army's best "future thinker," and credited with being the most effective combat development director since the 1960s. He was a critical innovator involved in the fielding of 17 flagship collection systems, down links, and processors.

COL Johnston's awards and decorations included the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

COL Johnston was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 1994.